

(Washington, DC)— Congresswoman Gwen Moore (D-Wisc.) today announced that Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, and West Allis will be receiving a combined investment of \$8,199,348 from the Recovery Act to quickly find alternative housing for families who fall into homelessness, and to help prevent families from becoming homeless in the first place. Milwaukee will receive \$6,912,159, Milwaukee County will receive \$712,755 and West Allis will receive \$574,434.

Rep. Moore helped pass the Economic Recovery Act in February to create jobs, bolster the country's infrastructure and improve the health of the economy and communities across the country.

"Climbing unemployment rates and shrinking incomes are putting so many in our community at risk of losing their homes," Congresswoman Moore said. "These hardworking Americans are worried about where their next paycheck is coming from, how they're going to keep food on the dinner table, and how they are going to pay their electricity bills. On top of this, they're worrying about how they're going to create some semblance of stability in their lives and their children's lives by keeping the family under one roof. These funds will provide a small measure of security for folks in these uncertain situations, and help them get back on their feet."

"In these tough economic times, homeless shelters in Milwaukee have seen a jump of more than 20 percent of persons and families without a place to call home," said Joseph Volk, Executive Director of Community Advocates, Inc., a group that provides basic needs advocacy and services to low-income and at-risk Milwaukee families and individuals. "The prevention and rapid rehousing funds provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will help to prevent homeless in Milwaukee as well as move those persons and families who are currently homeless into permanent housing more quickly."

The grants provided under the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HRRP) are not intended to provide long-term support for individuals and families. These funds will not go toward mortgage assistance to homeowners facing foreclosure. Rather, HRRP funds offer a variety of short-and medium-term financial assistance to those who would otherwise become homeless as a result of the current economic downturn.

This assistance can include short-term rental assistance (up to three months), medium-term rental assistance (up to 18 months), security deposits, utility deposits, utility payments, moving

cost assistance, and hotel vouchers. Payments will not be made directly to households, but only to third parties such as landlords or utility companies.

The program also provides assistance to rapidly re-house people who are homeless and likely to remain stably housed – whether subsidized or unsubsidized – once the HRRP assistance concludes.

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